

year at the El Pomar Awards for Excellence banquet. The banquet was created to honor non-profit groups in the State of Colorado.

HARP's mission is to raise the necessary funding to bring improvements to the Arkansas Valley area. Their project involves the creation of a riverwalk for the City of Pueblo to attract shoppers and restaurateurs throughout the area. Voters approved the need for such an attraction in 1995. The river walk has already begun to revitalize and re-energize the area of downtown Pueblo, not far from my district office, thanks to the efforts by many including HARP.

The foundation is led by Jean Rickman who accepted the Julie and Spencer Penrose Award on behalf of the organization on November 13, 2001. The award contributes \$25,000 to the HARP foundation, which seeks funding from private and corporate contributions. The cash award adds to the impressive total of \$7,000,000 now raised for the project.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate the HARP foundation on their recent achievement award. Through organizations such as HARP, the people of Colorado can be proud of their heritage and their community. HARP is a model group for non-profit foundations throughout the nation. It is again with great pride that I commend and thank HARP for all their efforts in enhancing the community of Pueblo.

HONORING MS. DIANNE O'DELL

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, a remarkable woman who teaches us there are no limits to what a person can accomplish.

At 3 years old, Dianne O'Dell was diagnosed with polio and, soon after, began her life in an iron lung. Her parents, Freeman and Geneva, were told Dianne would not reach adulthood. Now, more than 50 years later, Dianne is still going strong. It is believed she has lived longer in an iron lung than anyone else in the world.

Ms. O'Dell's physical handicaps have not discouraged her. While living inside the yellow, seven-foot-long iron lung, she used a two-way radio to complete coursework and graduate from Jackson High School. She took classes from Freed-Hardeman College, now Freed-Hardeman University, and accepted an honorary doctorate in psychology from Freed-Hardeman. She wrote a children's book, "Blinky Less Light," and is currently working on her autobiography.

Dianne says she has been able to reach her goals despite her physical limitations because of positive thinking and her sense of humor. She often refers to her iron lung as her "yellow submarine" and enjoys having it decorated for holidays. Dianne remembers one Halloween when she costumed the machine as a giant roll of Life Savers candy.

Ms. O'Dell also credits her strong sense of faith. She worships with the Campbell Street Church of Christ in her hometown of Jackson, Tennessee, although she is not able to attend services. Members of the congregation bring her taped sermons and the Lord's Supper.

Dianne's family has also played a valuable role. Mr. and Mrs. O'Dell, along with Dianne's two sisters, have been by their daughter's side her whole life, often making personal sacrifices for her health.

Over the years, Ms. O'Dell has worked with others coping with disabilities, especially families with disabled children. She tells them how important it is to keep faith and a positive outlook.

I believe Dianne's spirit and love of life are encouraging—not only to those facing similar situations, but to all of us. She is an inspiration to everyone who knows her or has heard her remarkable story. Above all, Ms. O'Dell is a reminder that there is no limit to what a person can accomplish with an unyielding spirit like hers. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues rise and join me in recognizing Ms. Dianne O'Dell.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER JEAN SMITH

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jennifer Jean Smith on the release of *True North*, a musical album that she both wrote and composed. Jennifer's love of music and words began at an early age. Always a singer and performer, grade school led to choirs, show choirs and many gigs as a soloist.

An outgoing yet introspective young Jennifer displayed her writing skills at an early age. Little blank books became filled with poetry, and an antique typewriter became a favorite tool for composing stories. An old upright piano, passed on by Jennifer's grandmother, Ruth Smith, a beloved music teacher and musician, served as the instrument for the composition of early songs, including "The Energy Crisis" written in the early 70s.

Jennifer said, dreaming of being a star is one thing, but for a small town girl raised on a dairy farm, actually knowing how one goes about such a thing is quite another. "There were many challenges."

Her first years of college were spent at Michigan State University where she pursued a career that included music. Jennifer moved to Ann Arbor in 1990. Once settled and working at the University of Michigan, she turned her attention again to making music and writing songs. Picking up and learning to play the guitar soon led to many finished songs and trips to Nashville. Jennifer launched her own music publishing company, The Michigan Rose Music Co., and record label, Michigan Rose Records.

In June 2001, Michigan Rose Records released its first single, *True North*, the title cut to Jennifer's first CD. *True North*—relating to the life and death of Dale Earnhardt, the race car hero—was recorded along with four other original songs in Nashville this past May. The CD, which was recorded and produced by Phil Dillon at Nickel City Studios, features her daughter Jackie on background vocals and a group of world-class Nashville studio musicians. Despite being an independent release, the single has received airtime on major country radio stations across the United States and

has resulted in further opportunities to write and sing—the beginning of a long-awaited dream.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate Jennifer Jean Smith for her perseverance and success.

JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE
BOBCATS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Jones County Junior College Bobcats for winning the state championship. I am very proud of JCJC which is in my home county. Both of my parents are alums of Jones County Junior College and I was raised supporting the school and its athletic programs. The Bobcats finished the season with 10 wins and 1 loss. Congratulations are in order for Jones County head coach Parker Dykes, his staff and his team. Their victory brings pride and respect not only to the athletic program, but to the college as a whole. Jones County Junior College continues to set the standard not only in athletics, but in academics as well. The technical and vocational training provided at JCJC equips students with the necessary skills to enter the 21st century workforce and become successful members of their community. I am always pleased to see our junior colleges excel. Again, congratulations on an outstanding season.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICH KOLECKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 27, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Rich Kolecki and thank him for his contributions to the Boy Scouts of America and the community of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. For the past eighteen years, Rich has served in a number of leadership positions in the Boy Scouts and his dedication is certainly worthy of recognition from this body.

Rich began volunteering when one of his sons joined the Cub Scouts in 1983. That led to an eighteen-year career, which was recently recognized by the Scouting community for his time and volunteering efforts to the program. He has served as a Cub Master, Troop Leader, and Assistant Scoutmaster. While serving in his leadership roles, his sons Ricky and Matthew have achieved the highest honor in Scouts, the coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scout program is designed to introduce young men to the outdoor environment and establish them as civic volunteers. As a Scout Leader, Rich participates side by side with his scouts allowing him to share the same experiences with his troop. It is Rich's hope that participation in these programs will instill leadership qualities in the young men they can draw on later in their future endeavors. The overall goal of the entire program is to produce well-rounded individuals for the community.